

1616 THE PASEO BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024
BULLETIN

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

*St. Monica Mission for Colored Catholics
opened October 2, 1910*

*first church for
Black Catholics in
Kansas City, Missouri*

Parish Staff

Fr. Leonard Gicheru
Pastor
frleonard@stmonicakc.org

Reverend Darwin Dupree, Sr.
Deacon
dawn2127@hotmail.com

Reverend Kenneth Greene
Deacon

Brad Geist
Pastoral Associate
bgeist@stmonicakc.org

Biviana Radillo
Office Manager
bradillo@stmonicakc.org

Ramonda Doakes
Religious Education
Safety Environment Coordinator
rdoakes@stmonicakc.org

Rita Womack
Food Pantry/Social Services
Director
ritawomack70@yahoo.com

Richard Jolevette
Custodian/Maintenance

Melvin Kerr
Choir/Music Ministry

George Hans
Accountant
finance@stmonicakc.org



ST. MONICA
CATHOLIC CHURCH
culture, family, love

Mass Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Sunday Service

9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass

6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

Main Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri
(816) 471-3696
www.stmonicakc.org



*On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy proclaims the Gospel in which Saint John refers to an episode that occurred in the final days of Christ's life, shortly before the Passion (cf. Jn 12:20-33).

While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, several Greeks, curious because of what he had been doing, express the wish to see him. They approach the apostle Philip and say to him: "We wish to see Jesus" (v. 21). "We wish to see Jesus."

Let us remember this: "We wish to see Jesus." Philip tells Andrew and then together they report it to the Teacher. In the request of those Greeks we can glimpse the request that many men and women, of every place and every time, pose to the Church and also to each one of us: "We wish to see Jesus."

And how does Jesus respond to that request? In a way that makes us think. He says: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (vv. 23-24).

These words do not seem to respond to the request those Greeks made. In reality, they surpass it. In fact, Jesus reveals that for every man and woman who wants to find him, He is the hidden seed ready to die in order to bear much fruit. As if to say: if you wish to know me, if you wish to understand me, look at the grain of wheat that dies in soil, that is, look at the cross.

The sign of the Cross comes to mind, which over the centuries has become the symbol par excellence of Christians. Even today, those who wish to "see Jesus," perhaps coming from countries and cultures where Christianity is not well-known, what do they see first? What is the most common sign they encounter? The Crucifix, the Cross.

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Fifth Sunday of Lent

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In churches, in the homes of Christians, even worn on their persons. The important thing is that the sign be consistent with the Gospel: the cross cannot but express love, service, unreserved self-giving: only in this way is it truly the “tree of life,” of overabundant life.

Today too, many people, often without saying so, implicitly would like to “see Jesus,” to meet him, to know him. This is how we understand the great responsibility we Christians and of our communities have. We too must respond with the witness of a life that is given in service, a life that takes upon itself the style of God —closeness, compassion and tenderness and is given in service.

It means sowing seeds of love, not with fleeting words but through concrete, simple and courageous examples, not with theoretical condemnations, but with gestures of love. Then the Lord, with his grace, makes us bear fruit, even when the soil is dry due to misunderstandings, difficulty or persecution, or claims of legalism or clerical moralism. This is barren soil. Precisely then, in trials and in solitude, while the seed is dying, that is the moment in which life blossoms, to bear ripe fruit in due time.

It is in this intertwining of death and life that we can experience the joy and true fruitfulness of love, which always, I repeat, is given in God’s style: closeness, compassion, tenderness.

May the Virgin Mary help us to follow Jesus, to walk, strong and joyful, on the path of service, so that the love of Christ may shine in our every attitude and become more and more the style of our daily life.

**The Holy Father Francis appeared at the window of his study in the Vatican Apostolic Palace to pray the Angelus with the faithful and pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter’s Square on March 21, 2021. This is the Pope’s introduction to the Marian prayer.*



Catholic Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus Christ, we submit ourselves to You. We choose to follow You and serve You with all our strengths. Help us to leave our sinful past and change to a new life that is pleasing and productive to You. **Amen.**

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

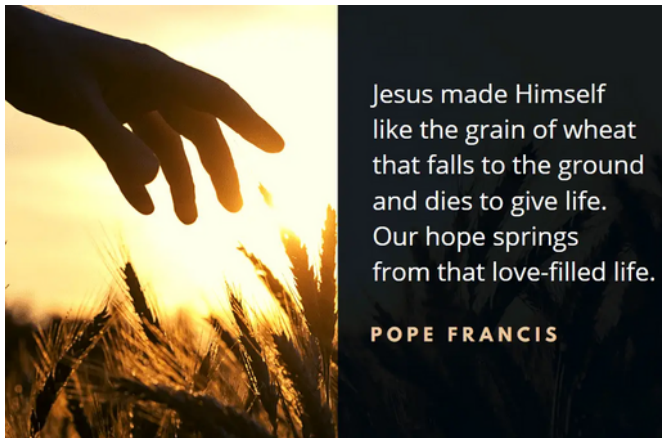
Today's Readings

First Reading – “The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Psalm – “Create a clean heart in me, O God” (Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15)

Second Reading – “...and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:7-9)

Gospel – “And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” He said this indicating the kind of death he would die” (John 12:20-33)



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Saint Patrick

Monday: Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Tuesday: 1738 Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose (Fort Mose) founder's day

Wednesday: Saint Joseph

Thursday: International Day Against Racism

Saturday: Saint Toribio de Mogrovejo

Readings for the Week

Monday: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62; Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11

Tuesday: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

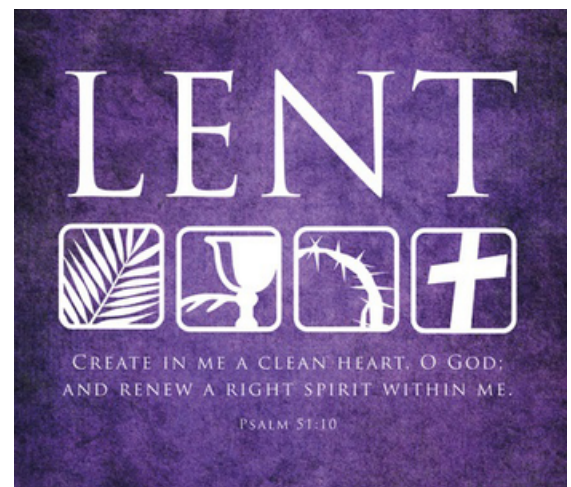
Wednesday: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42

Thursday: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalms 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59

Friday: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalms 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42

Saturday: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56

Sunday: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39



Offering Reports

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Regular Offering:	\$6,234.00
Food Pantry:	\$193.00
Debt Reduction:	\$80.00
Miscellaneous:	\$1,291.00
Total	\$7,798.00

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Lectors: Patricia Williams and Rita Womack

Speaker: Dwight Miller

Narrator: Deacon Greene

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team A

Eucharistic Ministers: Kirk Thaw and Shirley Thaw

Counters: Team 3



THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY- ST. JOSEPH - is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse or suspect sexual abuse,

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-392-3728 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18)
2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency, or call 911,
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, crayon@ombudsmankc.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph.
4. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing healing and resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.



Prayer List

Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Bernadette Cook, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald and Mable Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyette Mize, Rhea Holloman, Clara Mays, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Margaret Sams, Debra Johnson, Deacon Ken Greene, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Greta Nash, Thurman Hall, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones

Please notify Father Leonard when you or a family member have become homebound or admitted to the hospital. Please call the parish office at (816) 471-3696 or email frleonard@stmonicakc.org.

Praxis Brings Some Friends

Key Word: Draw

Key Verse: Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. *John 12:24*

Praxis the colorful pixie was a bright pink. He felt extremely well and healthy. He was very excited because the wise old pixie was coming to visit. The wise old pixie was the only other pixie in the whole world (as far as Praxis knew) who changed color according to his feelings. He was so old and so wise, that mostly he was shining white, unlike Praxis who could be any color of the rainbow. Praxis was so happy he began dancing in the woods. He was so excited that he didn't notice where he was going, and he found himself lost in the woods. Praxis heard a twig crack behind him and he spun around in alarm. He noticed that he was turning purple, a sure sign of his fear.

A band of goblins began to gather around Praxis. All the pixies had been warned to keep away from goblins, for goblins were no good. Praxis tried to sneak away, but the goblins had noticed him. Praxis tried to smile, but his skin remained a terrified purple.

"Are you from that pixie village in the glade?" one of the goblins asked. "Who wants to know?" Praxis replied. The goblins started to laugh and jeer at him. "We're the goblin outcasts,"

they sang. "We have no homes, and no friends, and everybody's afraid of us." "We want to see the wise, old pixie," said the goblin's leader.

Praxis always thought of the wise old pixie as belonging only to the pixies. Praxis thought the wise old pixie wouldn't mind seeing them just this once. So he brought them to him. As they walked through the woods, Praxis began to know them a little, and his purple shade quieted down. By the time they reached the pixie glade, he was a warm, gentle pink.

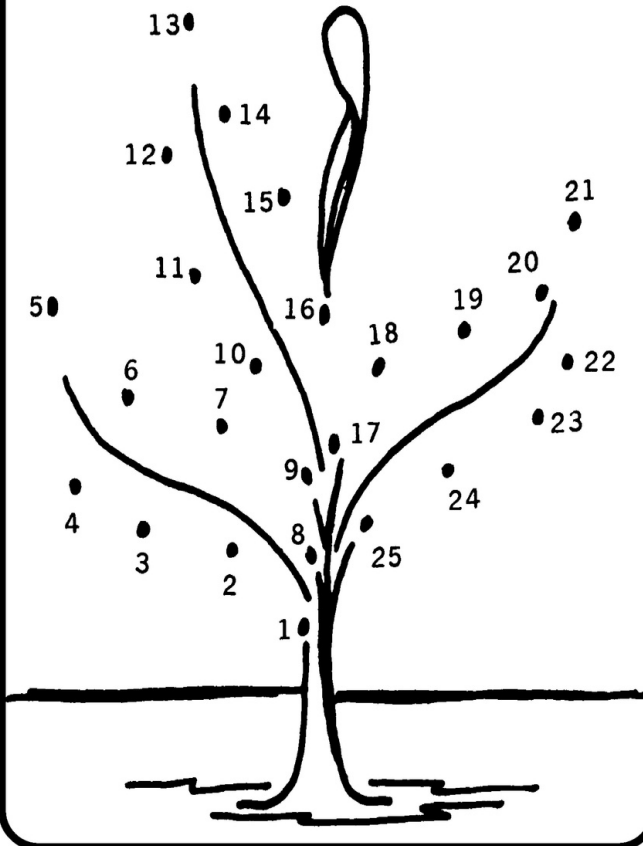
When they reached the wise old pixie, the wise old pixie smiled and held out his arms. He was a brilliant, shining white, and the goblins crowded around, talking to him and listening to him. As Praxis went off to play with his friends, his skin became a warm orange color, for somehow he knew that he'd done the right thing.

Questions

Why was Praxis afraid of the goblins?

Do you think Jesus was afraid to die?

Finish The Picture. Jesus told his friends that he would have to die, just like a seed dies when you put it in the ground. But new life will come afterwards. Draw a picture of what happens when you bury a seed in the ground. Connect all the numbers and see what the picture is.



Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 12:20-33



Word Find Puzzle

Here are twelve words from today's Gospel story. Some are printed upside down, backwards, or at an angle. One is done for you. How many can you find?

Word List:

- FESTIVAL
- GALILEE
- HOUR
- TRULY
- GRAIN
- WHEAT
- KEEP
- FATHER
- ANGEL
- VOICE
- RULER
- EARTH

F	Q	R	C	N	U	R	W	H	E	A	T	Z
X	E	A	R	T	H	C	B	Y	O	R	R	R
S	R	S	S	R	F	J	Y	D	C	P	U	Y
V	F	A	T	H	E	R	C	F	G	L	L	N
P	R	V	G	I	R	P	V	K	S	P	Y	L
B	S	E	E	V	V	O	I	C	E	I	O	O
N	H	K	L	D	T	A	H	L	J	K	X	O
R	T	T	O	U	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E
Q	R	T	K	G	R	N	V	B	J	E	D	P
R	D	D	K	L	A	K	L	S	D	P	W	P
U	C	C	P	J	I	P	W	D	V	P	L	K
O	O	N	B	B	N	L	A	H	H	T	V	M
H	M	M	R	B	C	D	A	N	G	E	L	N

➔ In Loving Memory



Please join us in commemorating the life of Earl Greene. His funeral service will be held on March 23 at 11:00am at St. Monica Catholic Church. Following the service, the interment of ashes will take place at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, located at 7601 Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64138 in the Sacred Heart division. Your presence and prayers are deeply appreciated as we honor and remember Mr. Greene's life and legacy.

➔ Rediscover Your Faith



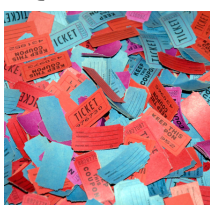
The next topic for our adult catechesis series, "Rediscover Your Faith," will be on the Holy Week Liturgy and how to more deeply enter the mystery of the Liturgy. The meeting will take place on Saturday, March 23 at 10am in the St. Monica Room. For more information, call the Parish Office at (816) 471-3696.

➔ Free Family Game Night



You are invited to a night of fun as the Knights of Peter Claver Council 57 hosts a FREE Family Game Night in Ferguson Hall on Saturday, March 23, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. This event welcomes everyone who is eager to have a blast in a safe and inclusive environment. Enjoy a variety of games suitable for all ages, indulge in delicious pizza, groove to the music. Let's come together as a church community for an unforgettable evening of laughter, camaraderie, and friendly competition. For more information, contact Knight Damon Hillman at (816) 379-2000.

➔ Quilt Raffle Fundraiser



A special thank you to everyone who has supported the parish's Quilt Raffle Fundraiser. If you have not purchased your raffle tickets yet, the Stewardship Committee will be in the hallway outside of Ferguson Hall before and after each Mass. The two beautiful quilts are valued at \$300 each...the raffle tickets only cost \$10. The more tickets you buy, the better your chance to win and support our Parish.



6:00 PM Thursday, March 28, 2024

Holy Thursday

Friday, March 29, 2024

5:15 PM Stations of the Cross

6:00 PM Good Friday Liturgy

8:00 PM Saturday, March 30, 2024

Holy Saturday

9:00 AM Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

➔ Pray For an End to Gun Violence



Join us at St. Francis Xavier Parish, located at 1001 E 52nd Street, Kansas City, 64110, as we come together to pray for an end to gun violence. Every Wednesday and Friday morning at 8:00 am, we gather at the corner of 52nd and Troost to pray the Rosary for the victims of gun violence. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary will be prayed in the chapel of St. Francis Xavier following the 7:30am Mass. Your presence and prayers are deeply appreciated as we stand in solidarity against the scourge of gun violence.

➔ 15th Annual School Bell Breakfast



Mark your calendars for a remarkable event! Attend the 15th Annual School Bell Breakfast on April 11 where we'll celebrate with Super Bowl LVIII Champions, KC Chiefs General Manager Brett Veach, and the 'voice of the Chiefs' Mitch Holthus. Let's continue our tradition of 'Making Dreams Come True' for our schools by supporting the Bright Futures Fund through this highly anticipated event. The program will take place in Arrowhead Stadium's North Club. For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Kendra Kemp McGee or visit brightfuturesfund.org.



ST. MONICA

CATHOLIC CHURCH

culture, family, love

Worship With Us

Sunday Eucharist Celebration
9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Mass
6:00 p.m. Prayer Service

First Friday Adoration

9:00 a.m.

Join Us Online!



SUBSCRIBE



LIVE

Social Service/Food Pantry

Wednesday & Thursday
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Call for appointment (816) 842-1877

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

Anointing the Sick

Marriage: (9 Months Preparation)

Reconciliation/Confirmation

Religious Education

RCIA

First Communion

Reconciliation

Men's Bible Study

Sunday School

Junior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group

Women's Bible Study

For more information or to schedule an appointment call (816) 471-3696